THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (e) A decision was taken by the Government in 1987 to constitute a separate Housing Board for Delhi. But, in the context of the National Housing Policy and the approach to involve the private sector to a greater extent in the construction of houses, a view has since been taken that no separate Housing Board for Delhi may be necessary.

Indo-Japan Relationship

3502. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreed to form a panel with Japan in order to further enhance bilateral relations; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the visit of the Japanese Foreign Minister, Yukihiko Ikeda, to India from 23-25 July, 1997, it was agreed that a Wisemen Committee would be constituted. The Committee would explore ways of further expanding and strengthening our bilateral relations. The details of this Committee will be finalised through further discussions at the official level.

Pending Provident Fund Cases

3503. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of cases regarding withdrawal of Provident Fund pertaining to M/s. Punjab Digital Industrial System Limited, Mohali, Punjab are pending in the Office of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken for immediate settlement of pending cases alongwith the reasons for delay and the time by which these cases are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As on 31.07.97, no such case was pending.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

40 Point Roster

3504. DR. BALIRAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether reservation in services in favour of SC/ST communities is applicable in Group 'A' services/posts where vacancies are filed up on seniority-cum-fitness basis;

(b) whether it is necessary for cadre controlling authorities to maintain 40 point roster to ensure exact calculation of vacancies each year for different communities; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to re-iterate the instructions to dispel the confusion prevailing in some offices who claim to implement the policy without maintaining roster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As a consequence of the Supreme Court's Judgement in R.K. Sabharwal's case, instructions have been issued to all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India on 2.7.1997 to replace the existing vacancy based roster including the 40-point roster, by post based rosters. All Ministries/Departments, including their Attached/Subordinate offices etc. are required to follow these instructions.

Central Assistance for Kerala

3505. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Sector Investment in Kerala is very low;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to increase the Central investment;

(c) whether unemployment problems upto certain extent has been created in Kerala on this account;

(d) whether the Government have received a proposal from Kerala Government seeking assistance for investment in the automobile sector; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) and (b) On the basis of information on distribution of Gross Block Investment in Central Public Sector Enterprises (1996), provision under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (1995-96) and Assistance from Financial Institutions (1995-96), the Central Sector Investment in Kerala is higher than many other States.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.